

Onsite Beneficial Reuse of Ground Engineered Wood Wastes

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Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris is a widely underutilized resource that represents nearly 30% of the municipal waste stream entering Wisconsin landfills.

Large quantities of relatively clean high-value materials are disposed of in landfills, resulting in higher C&D costs and wasted resources for the industry. The National Association of Home Builders estimates that 1.7 tons of wood waste is generated during the construction of a 2,000 square-foot home.

Dimensional lumber along with engineered wood products (such as oriented strand board, plywood, wood I-joists, glue laminated timbers and laminated veneer lumber) make up a large percentage of the wood waste that may be chipped for erosion control mulch. For more information on exempt use of wood wastes, see DNR guidance document Wood Chip Exempt Use Guidance <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/wa/wa1019.pdf>

How to Obtain an Exemption from the DNR

An exemption may be obtained from your local DNR office by submitting a letter requesting a low hazard exemption prior to mulching with wood-chips created from engineered wood (see definition above). The letter must contain your company's name, address, a contact person, phone number and an estimate of the amount of wood waste that you expect to use as erosion control or landscaping annually. Use the example letter provided in this fact sheet as a guide to request the exemption. The DNR may specify requirements in addition to the best management practices described in "Wood Chip Mulching for One and Two Family Home Sites" if they are appropriate to prevent potential hazards to public health and the environment.

Request for Low Hazard Exemption for Engineered Wood Processors and Users

Put this letter on company letterhead. Make sure the letterhead has all pertinent contact information, including: company name, street address, phone number, fax number and email address. If the letterhead does not contain all this information, or you don't have a letterhead, please include it in the letter.

Insert date. Address letter to (see list of regional DNR contacts):

Example for South Central Region:
Waste Program Manager
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Fitchburg, Wisconsin 53711-5397

Dear DNR:

On behalf of (company) I herewith request a Low Hazard Grant of Exemption from regulation for the storage, processing and/or use of ground new construction engineered wood scrap for the purpose of landspreading it as an erosion control material at new home construction sites.

Normally discarded material, such as scrap wood left over from construction projects, is a solid waste as defined in s. 289.01(33), Wis. Stats., and exemptions to allow for the recycling of low hazard wastes are allowable under s. 289.43 (8), Wis. Stats., and NR 500.08(5), Wis. Adm. Code.

I understand that the scrap wood used to make the erosion control material must not include treated lumber such as CCA-green treated wood, creosote treated wood and copper quat., nor can it be painted or finished with other surface coatings.

I further understand that any use of the wood material should adhere to the best management practice guidelines "Wood Chip Mulching for One and Two Family Home Sites" developed by the Dane County Land Conservation Department.

By receiving this exemption, I estimate that our company expects to divert approximately _____ tons* of wood waste from state landfills in the next year.

I have enclosed a check in the amount of \$550, payable to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, for the permit fee. I understand that this is a one-time fee.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

(sign name)
typed name, title
company name

Enclosure (check)

***Residential construction yields approximately 1.5 pounds of wood waste per square foot constructed in homes. Estimate the square footage you anticipate building in the next year, convert to wood waste pounds, calculate tons and enter total.**

Draft exemption letter created by WasteCap Wisconsin, Inc. in cooperation with the WI DNR. No guarantee is given or implied that use of this sample will result in a successful exemption by the WI DNR. WasteCap Wisconsin has additional information available to help recycle construction and demolition debris.

414/961-1100, wastecap@wastecap.org www.wastecapwi.org

For More Information

For more information on similar subjects visit the DNR Waste Program website:

- <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Demo/Debris.html>

or the DNR Cooperative Environmental Assistance website:

- <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/CompAssist/>

To access Wisconsin's solid waste rules (Chs NR 500, NR 502 and NR 518, Wis. Adm. Code), see:

- <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/nr/nr500.pdf>
- <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/nr/nr502.pdf>

How to Reach Us

Contact: DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov

Disclaimer: This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.

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